

REMARKS

Claims 8-18 are pending. Claims 1-7 have been canceled. Claims 8-18 are allowed.

Claims 1-3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) over Sawada (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,675).

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Sawada.

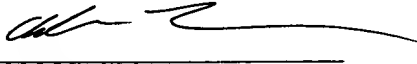
Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Sawada in view of Motoyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,887,216).

Applicants have canceled the rejected claims, claims 1-7. The remaining claims, claims 8-18, have been allowed by the Examiner. All of the outstanding claims are in condition for immediate allowance, accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing our Docket No. 325772018800.

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